

# Genesee County Express

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**TURNAROUND** — Less than a week after temperatures shot above the 60-degree mark, Dansville routine was slowed by the second major snow storm of the season. And clearing-up operations were in order last Thursday morning. Main Street shovelers were hard at work and Department of Public Works trucks were busy clearing the way for vehicles. North Dansville Town Clerk Tim Wolfanger helped clear walks at the Town Hall while Charles Stout utilized a tractor plow to clear a driveway entrance on Elizabeth Street. Since the storm, temperatures have, for the most part, remained chilly — as can be expected during February.

## What Will Happen to Rural Area Roads?

A major cutback in state funds for highway and bridge work in this region was announced last week by Department of Transportation (DOT) officials in Hornell.

The amount allocated to Region Six is set at \$19.1 million — down from the \$39.5 million spent on projects in the six-county area in

1987.

This news flies in the face of other state officials who are attempting to upgrade transportation systems in rural areas.

Speaking before the DOT panel on project Transportation 2020, Senator Charles D. Cook in his capacity as chairman of the Legis-

lative Commission on Rural Resources, emphasized key concerns of rural dwellers and businesses on road and transportation issues. The panel is part of a national effort to assess current needs and develop recommendations to Congress and state governments for future road and

bridge needs. The statutory authority for the current federal highway aid program is due to expire in 1991.

Senator Cook noted that neglect of local, feeder and distributive links of rural roads and bridges has as detrimental an economic outcome to residents as deterioration of main arteries, and that efficient movement of farm products and commuter traffic is crucial to urban needs as well as rural. A road network in poor condition indirectly impacts on loss of profitability and marketability of farm products throughout the northeast, he said.

A recent study by the Governor's Roadway Improvement Committee found that 11 percent or 1,680 miles of state highway was in poor condition, while it has been estimated that more than 20 percent or 19,000 miles of local roads are in need of significant repair. A 1984 study by Dr. Rae Zimmerman, of the Graduate School of Public Administration of New York University, found that 66 percent of the then 16,249 miles of New York roads rated in deteriorated conditions were local roads. Furthermore, three out of our miles of these deteriorated roads were in rural areas. Also, while 2,600 state-owned bridges

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## Calls for Return of Passenger Service

Declaring that a secure future for New York lies in government's ability to provide adequate public transportation to all areas of the state, Steuben County Assemblyman Donald R. Davidsen again called for the Department of Transportation to study the restoration of passenger rail service to the Southern Tier.

Testifying before Transportation 2020, a citizen's forum on the future of transportation into the 21st century, Davidsen said current transportation planning methods are short-sighted in the way they deal with the Southern Tier's present and future needs.

Because of the lack of emphasis on transportation, the

Southern Tier remains one of New York's only underdeveloped areas located between Buffalo and New York City, Davidsen said. "If we are to adequately prepare for the future, we must recognize that public transportation developed with public funding is absolutely essential to the continuation of our society as we know it."

Davidsen also said that plans for future transportation do not foresee that inevitability of a gasoline shortage, which is sure to be brought on by a finite and quickly dwindling supply of oil. "We have only rudimentary bus and air service" in the Southern Tier, a situation

that desperately needs to be improved. Restoring rail service is highly possible because tracking is already in place."

Since his election in 1986, Davidsen has been an outspoken proponent of restoring passenger rail service to the area. He has written officials at DOT and has sat in on several Assembly hearings, such as one held last November by the Subcommittee on Railroads.

At the recent citizen's forum, Davidsen said, "we must ensure that our children inherit a New York state that will flourish in the next century with adequate transportation to serve our population and our industry."

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Hope for State Help

## Board Seeks Funds For Village Project

With a view of expanding water and sewer services in Bankers Meadows, Dansville Mayor Michael Kane appealed this week to Assemblyman John Hasper of Belfast for assistance in obtaining \$57,100 in state funding for the proposed work.

Citing the planned construction in the Bankers Meadows area of an intermediate care facility (ICF) proposed by Craig Developmental Disabilities Office (CDDO) at Snyea, Kane said, "Given this good fortune, it is an excellent opportunity to extend these (water and sewer) lines at less cost to provide service to all residents of this area..."

The CDDO last year approved the Bankers Meadows site on Gray Street and Jefferson Street extension with planned construction of an ICF for 12 mentally retarded and mentally disabled clients currently cared for at Craig Developmental Center.

With the construction, the state Office for Mental Retardation and Developmentally Disabled has agreed to include, at its expense, the installation of about 550 feet of six-inch water line on Jefferson Street extension including one fire hydrant and about 1,500 feet of eight-inch sewer line including manholes. Kane called the project a "positive change" for Bankers Meadows.

In his letter to Hasper, the mayor noted there are 16 existing residences in the area and one church that should be provided water and sewer services and improved fire protection.

He said the proposed work

"would facilitate further development of the area" and would "provide a regeneration and revitalization of Bankers Meadows that is almost incalculable."

The village is not applying for funds from any agency, state or federal, or any private agency "and the only sources of funding" are through user charges which are insufficient to support a capital project of this size," Kane stated.

He said with the funding, if approved, the village is proposing to install a six-inch sewer line about 350 feet west on Jefferson Street extension with two manholes; another six-inch sewer line a distance of about 1,000 feet on Buck

Road and Clara Barton Street extension with three manholes; install a six-inch water main about 1,000 feet on Buck Road and Clara Barton Street extension including two hydrants; and a six-inch water main about 1,500 feet with three hydrants on Gray Street.

The work is to be coordinated with construction of the ICF and installation of the state water and sewer lines, the mayor explained.

He said with notification to the village of funding, the work will take about six months to complete. He said the proposed work will be done by employees and equipment of the village Department of Public Works.

### Cost-Cutting Measure

## Reduce Postal Service Hours

In compliance with nationwide mandate, some services will be curtailed at the Dansville Post Office.

Dansville Postmaster James R. Burns announced there will be a reduction in window service in an effort to reduce operating costs. Effective Feb. 16, window services will be closed for one and a half hours — from 1 until 2:20 p.m. — Monday through Friday. In addition, Sunday mail collections will be eliminated.

Burns said the schedule at other area post offices will vary, based on the size and location of 1988 and 1989.

the facility. Information on specific hours may be obtained by phoning a local office or branch.

Burns pointed out that during the period the windows are closed, patrons will still have access to post office boxes and vending equipment in those facilities where it is available.

Burns said the cost-saving measures have been taken as a result of the Omnibus Reconciliation Act of 1987 which requires the Postal Service to reduce its operating budget by about \$2 billion during the fiscal years of

## FW Corp. Fights Bid for Takeover

Foster Wheeler Corp. is continuing to resist a takeover bid by a large stockholder group headed by Asher B. Edelman.

The firm, parent of Foster Wheeler Energy Corp. which has a major manufacturing plant in Dansville, has responded to the letter it received from Edelman who proposed a meeting with company officials.

In response, Louis Azzato, president and chief executive officer of FW, said "I am prepared to meet with you at a mutually convenient time for the purpose of discussing any ideas you may have as a shareholder to improve the company's operations and serve the long-term best interests of all Foster Wheeler shareholders. As you know, we are already working on a restructuring plan for Foster Wheeler that we believe will strengthen the company and bring more value to our shareholders. However, should you have any additional ideas that we have not already considered, we will consider them."

Edelman, who together with others, have reported ownership of about 11.5 percent of Foster Wheeler's common stock. In his letter, Edelman proposed a meeting to discuss jointly formulating a recapitalization plan which would include the distributions of cash and securities to shareholders. He also suggested discussing acquisition to Foster Wheeler for \$16.50 per share in cash, subject to various conditions including "due diligence and financing."

This takeover move was quickly rejected by Azzato. In his response to Edelman, the FW official said

"In light of our belief and the opinion of our financial advisors that your highly conditional \$16.50 per share acquisition proposal is inadequate and not in the best interests of all our shareholders, we are not prepared to discuss your alternative acquisition proposal at our meeting."

On Jan. 25, Foster Wheeler announced its intention to restructure certain subsidiary operations and dispose of properties, including some of its real estate, no longer used in its businesses. The operations to be discontinued have been a significant drain on the company's earnings for the last several years, particularly in 1987 officials said. Disposing of them is expected to improve both Foster Wheeler profitability and cash position in 1988 and thereafter, they added. Cash generated by this move, officials said, would strengthen its core business and further its activities in development of municipal solid waste projects.

Foster Wheeler is a diversified worldwide engineering, manufacturing, construction, real estate and financial services organization with annual revenues in excess of \$1.2 billion. The corporation's headquarters are now located in Clinton, N.J.

## Grade School Kids Plan Jump and Jump for Funds

The fifth annual Elementary-Primary Schools Jump-a-Thon program will take place on Wednesday, Mar. 2, between 3 and 4:30 p.m. in the Dansville Elementary School gymnasium. The program is sponsored by Noyes Memorial Hospital.

Participants raised \$11,700, an increase of \$1,700 from the previous year.

### Dansville Man Dies In Area Collision

Two Dansville brothers were injured, one fatally, the result of a two-vehicle accident at about 7:30 a.m. Monday on Route 63, a mile north of Genesee.

David P. Harrington, 22, of 19 Knox St., a passenger in a compact car operated by his brother, Patrick, 24, of Greenmount Ave., was thrown from the car following a collision with a salt-laden tractor-trailer rig.

Truck driver Gregory D. Petrell, 29, of Holland, was uninjured. Patrick Harrington was admitted to Noyes Memorial Hospital.

Livingston County Sheriff Richard A. Kane reported Petrell was driving south on Route 63 when the collision occurred.